Higuera to go high-maintenance

By Sarah E. Thien
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

An enhancement plan on Higuera Street is set to start in the next few years. One of the main reasons for the enhancement is to utilize San Luis Creek similar to the way it's used in downtown Mission Plaza.

COLLIN HESTER/MUSTANG DAILY

The need to hire additional faculty has made to improve the included area. By doing so, it will allow administrators and students within each department to decide the best way to stay on the cutting edge.

College of Architecture and Environmental Design Budget Statistics

- Total allocations from the state of California 2001-02: $8,516,493
- Total anticipated operating expenditures 2001-02: $752,604
- Total anticipated faculty salaries and benefits expenditures 2001-02: $7,793,124

see CAED, page 7

By Whitney Kobrin
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The ASI Board of Directors passed two bills Wednesday: one that will make chair selection off limits to students, and another that will initiate a ticket system in voting.

At the bimonthly board meeting Wednesday, the board voted on two bills, both of which affect the power of the students in the selection of officials. One bill determined that students will no longer vote on the chair of the Board of Directors. The other requires Associated Students Inc., presidential nominees to select a vice presidential running mate and run as a ticket.

The first bill, number 02-01, proposed an amendment to the ASI bylaws that would allow the Board to select a chair from its own membership. Debate among board members was entertained prior to the bill's passage.

Lake Parnell, agriculture representative, said, "The main aspect of the bill is to increase accountability of the chair to the board, because the duties of chair are management focused."

He said the bill will help keep the chair focused on the job and his accountability to the Board.

John Pasch, another agriculture representative, said allowing students to vote for the chair of the board was not logical because students are not likely to be aware of the requirements of the chair position and are less likely to vote based on leadership and ability to hold board meetings.

The vote resulted in the passing of the bill with 21 affirmative votes, one negative and four abstentions. The second bill, number 02-02, sparked much debate and prompted many members of the board to voice their thoughts.

Brian Wallace, an engineering representative, disagreed. He said allowing students to vote for the chair of the board was the best way to help the ASI election process.

"Students deserve to know what they are voting for and who they are going to," Pasch said. "ASI officers are in the business of student advocacy, and they should be elected by the students."

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All majors sought for writing contest

By Bryan Dickerson

Angela Blевitt scrunches up her face. "I'm a little embarrassed," said the English graduate student. "In past years, I submitted some poetry that, in retrospect, I don't think was very good."

Around campus, and especially prevalent where the agriculture and English buildings intersect, are flyers with words like "Diversity," "Innovation," and "Freshman" figure attractively written. Above Dickenson is an announcement of Cal Poly's 32nd annual creative writing contest.

For the contest, students like Blевitt will submit either a short story or poetry to compete for a piece of the $540 prize. Alan Landwehr is the patron saint of the event. He started the contest in 1972 to encourage creativity and to fill "a void" here on campus.

"It was a much more conservative campus back then," Landwehr said. "'The students of Cal Poly are better-informed on the issue until after the most qualified if the elections were implied that students were not intellectual, and if the team is elected, then they are certainly qualified," Harvey, a representative for the College of Liberal Arts. "It should be smart enough to know the difference."

Larry Montoya, a speech communications senior, said that because Cal Poly is not liberal arts oriented, the campus lacks support for the arts. "It's hard to find interests in liberal arts here," Leonard said. "The school is better on the arts oriented because it is making more sports." I've learned to jump through the hoops, but found I've become a lot less creative. My confidence has gone down a lot," Hook said.

"I have a lot of friends that aren't English majors," Harvey said. Montoya said: "I encourage them to enter.

Montoya said she hasn't had time to go through her stuff to find the piece she wants to submit, but she'll go to the reading even if she doesn't enter anything. Each spring, the winners read their work and accept prizes at the annual awards event emceed by Landwehr and Kevin Clark, an English professor. In its first year, there were 35 entries, with approximately 65 percent which will start in two years.

"Basically what it says is there are certain uses in the area that are not appropriate," Hook said. Businesses like Caltrans cannot be forced to move, but if they do move a business such as a hotel or conference center should be built in its place. Hook said.

"The mid-Higuera Area was chosen for renovation because it is a gateway between the two major shopping districts in San Luis Obispo," Settle said. "It is obvious that there isn't a need for the creek. It is a business plan for the city."

Jeff Hixik, an associate planner at the Mid-Higuera Street Enhancement plan will be paid for by transit improvement funds from federal and state sources set aside for redevelopment projects. Settle said he foresees no tax increase for San Luis Obispo residents to help fund either the short-term or long-term goals of the plan.

"The winners are mostly English and journalism majors," Landwehr said, "but a lot of other majors have done well too, and that's great to see. If they do well they usually end up taking creative writing classes."

"I have a lot of friends who aren't English majors and are good writers," Laura Montoya, English senior

TODAY'S TIDE
High: 12:50 a.m. / 4.74 feet
Low: 6:19 a.m. / 1.80 feet
TODAY'S SUN
High: 12:07 p.m. / 5.21 feet
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extend the deadline by one day for Cheney to give Congress the identities and that the presentations over captors' demands, locate and rescue kidnapped reporter Powell: U.S. trying to rescue kidnapped reporter

WASHINGTON — The United States is trying to rescue kidnapped American reporter Daniel Pearl in Pakistan, but there would be no negotiations over captors' demands, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Thursday.

The group allegedly holding Pearl, 38, hostage said Thursday it was extending the deadline by one day for the United States to release Pakistani prisoners from the Afghan war, or they would kill their captive.

Powell said he has spoken with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf about the situation and that the president said he would do everything he can.

Pearl, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, disappeared in Pakistan on Jan. 23 while working on a story about alleged shoe-bomber Richard Reid.

— Reuters

White House to be sued by General Accounting Office

WASHINGTON — In a letter to the White House and Congressional leaders Jan. 30, David M. Walker, comptroller general of the United States and director of the accounting office, said he intended to ask a federal judge to order Vice President Dick Cheney to give Congress the identities of energy industry executives who helped the Bush administration formulate a national energy policy last year.

Walker also said he will be seeking the subject that each executive discussed with task force members. Mr. Cheney was the chairman of the task force. If released, the documents would detail contacts between corporate executives and the administration's energy task force.

The announcement sets up a legal showdown between an investigative arm of Congress, the Bush Administration and the accounting office. The dispute over resources has made it difficult for the White House to distance itself from the Enron Corp., whose executives met with Cheney and other energy task force members six times last year.

— The New York Times

Satellite debris in Egypt

WASHINGTON — NASA officials said Thursday that any debris that passed through the earth's atmosphere from the falling Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer satellite probably crashed somewhere in Central Africa about 11:15 p.m. EST Wednesday.

The science satellite, which is 7,000 pounds, began plunging from orbit Wednesday. NASA updated its earlier warnings Thursday that any debris could have reached the earth's surface. Some special forces will be allowed to shoot in self-defense while accompanying Filipinos soldiers fighting the Abu Sayyaf. But some politicians say the mission violates a constitutional clause, which restricts foreign combat troops on sovereign soil. President Bush said in an addendum that if countries do not deal with terrorist activities on their soil, America will.

Powell said he has spoken with the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, that Bush was not referring to the Philippines and that the Philippine government and armed forces are "extremely serious" about combating terrorism.

— Associated Press

International Briefs

ZAMBIA-ANGOLA, Philippines — The body of an American believed to have been killed by prisoners while working with a German friend near Mount Pinatubo volcano was found Thursday by Philippine troops.

Brian Smith's body was spotted in a deep ravine, near a waterfall, but rescue workers were unable to retrieve it before sundown. It should be recovered by Friday, a police chief said. Earlier Thursday, rescue teams found Sigitum Whitman, who was injured in the attack Wednesday. The police said one or two people fired at Smith and the bullets passed through Smith and hit Whitman.

A police chief said there are reasons to believe the attack were members of the communist New People's Army guerrillas who operate in the area.

— Associated Press

South Pacific

American soldiers from the Philippines began training Filipino troops Thursday to improve efforts against Muslim extremists. The opening ceremony was held in Zamboanga, where more than 100 U.S. soldiers have already been deployed. Thirty-six American and 155 Filipino troops attended the ceremony.

In the next six weeks, another 500 soldiers, including special forces, are scheduled to arrive for a six-month mission to train Filipino soldiers.

The Abu Sayyaf is currently holding hostage a U.S. missionary couple connected to the al-Qaeda.

The Filipino troops will be trained mostly in helicopter night flying and in other tactics involving the use of night vision equipment. Some special forces will be allowed to shoot in self-defense while accompanying Filipinos soldiers fighting the Abu Sayyaf. But some politicians say the mission violates a constitutional clause, which restricts foreign combat troops on sovereign soil. President Bush said in an addendum that if countries do not deal with terrorist activities on their soil, America will.

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— Associated Press

U.S. journalists will stay in Pakistan despite threats

By David Shaw

L.A. Times

WASHINGTON — Despite threats to American journalists from Islamic radicals, the news director of The Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, executives at major U.S. news organizations said Wednesday that they have no plans to pull their reporters or photographers out of Pakistan. Some said, however, that they have reinforced earlier warnings to their journalists in the region to exercise extreme caution and to take no unnecessary risks.

"I just talked with both the people we have there, and I reiterated what we always say — that no story is worth putting yourself in grave danger," said Colin Mcmahon, foreign editor of the Chicago Tribune. "I know the assumption of going out of a region for a limit for a story ... but it doesn't do you any good if you're kidnapped and you can't do any good," Mcmahon said.

It's difficult to know how long or widespread the group's list of threats is, and what its actual intent and capabilities are, but he said its actions so far won't change the Tribune's coverage.

Other editors agreed.

"There are times when it's dangerous to be a journalist," as journalists part of our mission — our calling — is an obligation to report the good and the bad and the dangerous," said Bob Dibble, executive editor of USA Today.

Dibble said his newspaper has three journalists in Pakistan — two of whom returned to the United States on scheduled home leave this week. "They will be replaced there as soon as we can in terms of logistics make possible," he said.

"Other news organizations said they would act to drop legal action against the church or state.

— Associated Press

AS1 Events PRESENTS

PLUS a very special guest

February Saturday 16th

@ the Cal Poly Rec Center

Advance General Admission tickets go on sale Friday, February 1st at 10AM at all VATTITIX Outlets including Box Boo Record in San Luis Obispo and Grover Beach, Rosener in Santa Maria, the Mustang Ticket Office on the Cal Poly Campus, Charter by phone at 1-888-625-5489 or on-line at VALLITIX.COM. Cal Poly Student discount at Mustang Ticket Office only. All ages welcome. For information call 786-2507 or VALLITIX at 1-888-625-5484. Produced by Otter Productions, Inc. and ASI Events. Sponsored by New Times.
Stash ‘Mothman’ back with the mothballs

By Bridgette Vanherweg
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER


Between November 1967 and December 1968, Point Pleasant, a little back town in West Virginia, was scene to scary sightings that foretold of evil happenings and disasters around the world. The “Mothman,” described as an 8-foot, dark, furry creature with wings and glowing eyes, not only knocked on citizen’s doors, but sucked their livestock’s blood and killed their watchdogs.

The Mothman even made it onto an episode of The X-Files. What media could resist this funny, furry man-crush? Those red eyes probably made a gorgeous catnip.

Fast forward to 2002. Although the legend includes “Men in Black”-like aliens figures driving shiny black vehicles and hiding behind futuristic clothing and sunglasses, the movie only hinted at these appearances when a down-home hitch named Gordy (Will Patton) cornered John Klein (Richard Gere) in his shower with a rifle pointed down his nose. Gordy swore that John had been visiting him for the last two nights, asking to use the phone and then disappearing. I guess Gordy didn’t wake up at 2 a.m. to lay strangers in shirts and ties use his phone.

The entire movie was based on ominous warnings in the form of meaningless phone calls and apparitions that the audience was never privileged to see.

Patton cornered John Klein (Richard Gere) in his shower with a rifle pointed down his nose. Gordy (Will Patton) cornered John Klein (Richard Gere) in his shower with a rifle pointed down his nose. Gordy swore that John had been visiting him for the last two nights, asking to use the phone and then disappearing. I guess Gordy didn’t wake up at 2 a.m. to lay strangers in shirts and ties use his phone.

The Mothman was actually a 1976 martial arts film called “Savage Killers” but Odelekker digitally places himself and some other characters in the film to create a brilliant mockery of Asian cinema. I will admit that some of the fight scenes were well crafted and not very original but the real jokes come in a more subtle fashion.

For instance, a bunch of fighters working out start saying as they are gaming “One... of us... is wearing a push-up bra.”

Not funny on the page but in the context of dubbed cinema works very well. This is a mood kind of movie though and not for everyone. I still contest that some of American cinema exists for escapism from reality and “Kung Pow” about, had proved true: the bridge collapsed, cars plunging into icy river water. As the camera zoomed away from the obviously computerized image, the car’s headlights emerged from the river bottom, similar to the original “sighting” of the Mothman that led to John’s wife’s (Debra Messing) death. As discovered later by John, the sighting turned out to be two red warning lights in the middle of the street on which she was speeding.

So, I left the theater pondering this question: Wouldn’t the water drown the car batteries, killing the headlights long before the car’s inhabitants gulped their last breath of air?

Another story twist that dug the film into a deeper grave of disbelief was the unbelievable rescue of John’s girlfriend — Sgt. Connie Parker (Laura Linney). As the female cop investigates the surreal happenings on her beat, she dives off a bridge into the water below in her police jeep. But thanks to John’s ability to hold his breath, he and rescues her from the cold river depths. She was the only survivor out of the 37 who had hit the water.

Since the audience was never privy to an actual Mothman sighting on the big screen, I wouldn’t waste the cash to see this flick. But if you’re into Richard Gere, creepy wind sounds, flashing lights and teardrop camera shots, the big screen may be the only way to watch.

By Ryan Bye
THE LAKESHORE (GRAND VALLEY STATE U.)

(U-WIRE) ALLENDALE, Mich. — The new film “Kung Pow: Enter The Fist” is a hilarious send up of martial arts films of the past. Director-actor Steve Oedekerk (“Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls,” “Nutty Professor”) creates a unique and very funny lowbrow escapist from reality and “Kung Pow” where you can’t help but laugh at the stupidity of the characters and scenes because it’s just funny.

So far I have read other reviews on “Kung Pow” and they have all been negative. I think going into a movie like “Kung Pow,” people need to realize that a movie like this can give only what is expected in a spoof of martial arts films and that is pure silliness that leads to comic delight. It is very difficult for me to imagine that this will be the funniest movie of 2002, but it is a welcome start since when had been are still in January.

Stash ‘Mothman’ back with the mothballs
If this movie were a cover song, the riffs and lyrics are played too flat and formulaic to create a lasting impression.

Despite the whole "Kwan Kids" element between him and Daniels during this in-prison, war-in-training part of the film, Harris reduces the cheese element significantly with his subtle, convincing performance. Read "subtle," something this film is in short supply of.

Luis Guzman ("Boogie Nights") does a good job in the sideline. Complete with Hollywood gangsta catch phrases: "I say we get that gay, pop him in a couple times. Ram Rams. It's done." When in the 19th century did they have automatic hand-guns.

"The Count of Monte Cristo" is entertaining in an "I'm really tired or I'm too drunk but look at anything to challenge or stimulate me" kind of way. Overall, the film felt like it was going for that classic rock song redo thing, taking the core structure of something great and building from there. But if this movie were a cover song, the riffs and lyrics are played too flat and formulaic to create a lasting impression. It's not so bad, like some guy playing "Stairway to Heaven" in a Ramada Inn with a tip jar perched on his Casio, but more like a bunch of studio musicians reading sheet music, sitting on stools in the studio and playing with unordered meter.

If you want to get lost in a big, cheesy epic better suited for television, then go see this movie. My advice is to wait for the rental.

First string films: conventional and unconventional picks to watch on Super Bowl Sunday

By Stephen Salto
Mustang Daily Staff Writer

Cinema Friday, February 1, 2002 5

'Monte Cristo' remake suited for TV, not theater

By Brian Dickerson Mustang Daily Staff Writer

even Reynolds' interpretation of the Alexandre Dumas classic "The Count of Monte Cristo," shows promise with well-executed action sequences, bursts of beautiful cinematography and a great star turn. Unfortunately, these elements aren't enough to save this epic of love, betrayal and retribution, and the result is a film that is flat, cliché and uninteresting.

With the Hollywood brain trust exhausting its supply of comic book, TV show and cereal boxes turned movie, rehabbing a classic tale like this one (the 17th such screen adaptation) is a great move. Reynolds bet big on action sequences and big sweeping-epic sequences and big sweeping-epic sequences and big sweeping-epic sequences and big sweeping-epic sequences and big sweeping-epic sequences.

The big budget, talented actors and a great plot are put to waste by Reynolds as he constantly falls back on the hackneyed cinematic familiarity to advance the story.

Bad guys with bad teeth, with. good-natured criminals and side-kicks with funny mannerisms strike many all too-familiar chords.

Jim Caviezel ("The Thin Red Line") plays a wide-eyed Edmond Dantes living in a world of mendicants and espionage while maintaining an innocence that borders on a mental disability. The result is an eventual craving of viewers' sympathy with his repetitive innocence and naiveté. Thankfully, he sheds this image in favor of a vengeful and satanic looking count with really bad Michael Landon hair.

Guy Pearce ("Moments," "LA Confidential") is a great actor and does a great job as the evil Fernand Mondego for about 12 minutes. After that, he slips into a repetition of bad-guy traits, constantly baring his teeth in a sadhurt sneer and ultimately flattening any dimension his character might have.

Dagmara Dominczyk plays Mercedes, the ultimate price between the two warring men. She has a nose and hair but is stunningly beautiful, and crying. The exception to these disappointments is Richard Harris, as a 19th century French senset. His character, "Priest," imparts the skills of both words and the sword upon his apprentice.

The film also happens to tell the story of Lucas (Corey Haim), a bungling kid just trying to get through high school after Adorable, small and clumsy, he is always overlooked. However, more than bugs are on Lucas' mind during the summer before his freshman.

Tom Cruise in "All the Right Moves," and most of his fanboys would agree on that point. He has never worn rights in this. On a quest to find a location for his collection, Lucas bumps into Maggie, the new girl in town (Winona Ryder, "The Groomsmen") Unquestionably sweet and attractive, Lucas finds Lucas' company engaging and, as he puts it, "interesting." Unfortunately, Lucas' feelings run somewhat deeper than being called interesting. Where is the football? School begins again, and so does football season. Lucas' nightmare quickly becomes reality when Maggie finally sees him (not in his element. And Caprice (Charlie Sheen), captain of the football team and an all-around nice guy, just happens to take more than one shine from Maggie. Sports begin to fly, but they are not the kind of sparks that Lucas had envisioned all summer. Before he had dismissed football as superficial, but suddenly football seems to be Lucas' answer to life's problems. As a route, in true Budweiser fashion, Lucas attempts to win the game in order to win the girl. With all the cheerleaders and band members, locker-room showers scenes and core wide receiver, Lucas is endlessly entertaining in a football kind of way. This movie showcases high school in its prime and romance from an original point of view. With a supporting cast of hilariously familiar faces, such as Winona Ryder and Courtney Thorne-Smith, "Lucas" gives today's audience some pleasant surprises. Writer-director David Seltzer ("Shining Through") devotes proper attention to a round-trip plot, thoughtful characters, and even includes a clever metaphor between locusts and Lucas. Watch the movie and you'll understand.

Forever tarnished by last year's Chris Rock remake "Dame to Earth," "Heaven Can Wait," which is actually a remake of the 1930s film "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," is probably the best reincarnation film ever made. Of course, it's a film category to choose from and "Heaven Can Wait," which is set against the backdrop of a single football season, certainly stands on its own as one of the finest movies of the 1974. The film stars Warren Beatty as Joe Pendleton, a second-year Los Angeles Rams, who gets killed in an automobile accident, only to discover that he wasn't supposed to die until nearly 50 years later. Even worse, the accident occurs on his birthday and, as a result, he's bound to be the Rams' starter for the season opener. When Pendleton arrives at the stadium between heaven and hell, a bumbling angel and his boss give Pendleton the opportunity to come back to earth as billionaire Leo Farnsworth. Pendleton jumps at the chance to become a football's richest man. But if this movie were a cover song, the riffs and lyrics are played too flat and formulaic to create a lasting impression. It's not so bad, like some guy playing "Stairway to Heaven" in a Ramada Inn with a tip jar perched on his Casio, but more like a bunch of studio musicians reading sheet music, sitting on stools in the studio and playing with unordered meter.

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Local Showtimes

Friday

Sunset Drive-In
San Luis Obispo
Orangerae County/Black Hawk Down (7:00) 10:45
Palm Theater
San Luis Obispo
Amelia (4:00) 6:45
Innocentia (4:30)
In the Bedroom (4:00) 6:45
Lantara (6:45) 9:15
Donnie Darko (9:15)

Downtown Centra 7 Cinemas

(event)

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Donnie Darko (9:15)
Editor,

Here I am, an aggie, and my last writing letter. Supposed to know how to put an "argue" before a word with a voice! But let's be honest; some people are very proud. Mr. Mason is lucky to have food on his table, being that it comes from "our dear aggie friends" who have yet to show him that they are hardworking or intelligent. "Our dear friends" who have yet to show that they care about our planet.

Jeans are not only a fashion statement, but a sustainable one. This is beside the point. Surprisingly enough, Mr. Mason, I happen to be one of the people who makes up almost all of the world's present agriculture. I can quote textbooks. "At least one-half of the United States population is responsible for production agriculture, the agriculture that puts food in our grocery stores, plants that will adorn your creation. In short, you are left with two options: either find a food source that doesn't originate from a farmer's prairie, or eat grass!"

Editor,

Most students don't care about anything. They eat, drink and wear clothes without a thought to where they actually come from. From the ungrateful, "our dear friends" who think that the world would run out of food in less than 45 days (how's that for a textbook fact?)! So surely all the "aggies" must be cheating and lying to get every product market to low prices so that we can all afford to eat.

So take a second to think about how agriculture affects you. Think before you shoot yourself in the foot and go hungry. And if Mr. Mason or anyone else cares to discuss this issue any further, my friends and I would be more than happy to talk it over down at Campus Market.

Andrew Bloom is an agricultural systems management senior.

Editor,

Even students from the College of Liberal Arts can quote textbooks. "At least one-half of America's harvested agricultural land is planted with feed crops for livestock, and over 70 percent of the grain raised in the United States goes for livestock fattening. Livestock are not an efficient method of protein production. A cow, for instance, must eat 21 pounds of protein to produce one pound of meat. In contrast, the feed far more efficient protein converters. The protein lost through conversion from plant to meat could be eaten by not only all of the world's present protein deficiencies."

If anyone is interested in reading more about this research, look up Group 150 or go ahead and buy the textbook just for fun ("The Human Mosaic" by Jordan-Bychkov).

Michelle McCready is a social sciences/city and regional planning sophomore.

Editor,

As soon as I read Justin Mason's letter ("Quoting a textbook isn't so impressive," Jan. 30), I brought it to the writing lab for evaluation. The monitor pronounced it completely digested the seeds, it defecates, leaving the plant diversity. "Mr. Mason apparently doesn't realize that we can't grow crops without pests. When a crop eats the seeds the sun, later, once it has digested the seeds, it defecates, leaving the plants that will adorn your creation. In short, you are left with two options: either find a food source that doesn't originate from a farmer's prairie, or eat grass!"

John Pierson is a journalism junior and Cara Peck is an animal science junior.

Editor,

In the most ridiculous letter to the editor in quite some time, Justin Mason has reduced all of the vestiges of mathematics, art, literature, history, or science to "the raw meat and vegetables that will adorn your creation. In short, you are left with two options: either find a food source that doesn't originate from a farmer's prairie, or eat grass!"

John Pierson is a journalism junior and Cara Peck is an animal science junior.

Editor,

In response to architectural engineering senior, Justin Mason, who wrote on Jan. 30, "I propose a deal. I won't work or live in any building you design and, in turn, you wave your right. That's right, you don't eat. With the only criteria that he has really only made his own departure look worse by doing so. In the future, when writing about a subject he feels passionate about, he should make sure that he has his facts straight first, rather than making sweeping generalizations.

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Letter policy Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanity, and length. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, major and class standing.

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By fax: (805) 758-6764
By e-mail: letters@mustangdaily.com

"I just finished First Round. Is that bullshit of letters yet?"
News
Friday, February 1, 2002

Excess blood donations discarded after Sept. 11 attacks

By Charles Ornstein
LOS ANGELES TIMES

(WIRE) NEW YORK — After the terrorist attacks, blood banks discarded supplies at nearly five times the usual rate and gave such mixed messages about the nation's health needs that donations since have plummeted, an industry report says.

In the three months after Sept. 11, a national sample of 25 blood banks collected 191,000 more units of blood than average, according to the National Blood Data Resource Center. But at 111,631 — or 59 percent — of those units were discarded because they remained unused and were no longer fresh after 42 days.

Experts say the true amount of waste was far greater, because the sampled centers account for a third of U.S. donations since then have plummeted, an industry report says.

"What we're very concerned about is having (donors) look and say, 'You had plenty of blood and you didn't really need all the blood for the emergency,'" Lipton said.

"For the most part, the blood community was unable to sustain the demand created by the Sept. 11 tragedy," Lipton said.

The task force also reported that selected centers committed twice as many errors as usual — in some cases, failing to properly question donors about their health.

"Although most of these errors did not compromise the safety of the collected units, any increase in error rates is cause for concern," the report said, to be presented Thursday to a blood advisory panel of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Blood banks have several layers of safety mandates, including laboratory tests of all collected blood — to ensure tainted products are not used in transfusions.

In a letter to blood banks' response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks exposed deep fissures in the industry, which has often split on strategy and safety issues, and resulted in mixed messages to donors.

The Red Cross called on donors to continue giving blood while other centers asked them to hold off.

The days after the attacks, federal and health officials convened a meeting of blood industry leaders, hoping to issue a joint statement encouraging donors to wait several weeks before giving. But because of opposition from the Red Cross, no statement was issued.

"We have such a great communication with all of our members," said Lisa Marie Brody, director of government relations. "Perhaps that communication was not there with the Red Cross national office because they take care of a lot of things including Blood. Our members are trained and have expertise in assessing and determining medical need."

The task force cited two lessons learned from the disaster response: donors — don't collect more blood than can be used, and ensure that all blood centers have adequate supplies on hand to respond to disasters at any time.

The lottery funds are certainly not enough. We've deferred many purchases for a number of years."

Martin Harms
dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design

However, these funds have not been nearly enough to purchase or maintain the equipment and facilities necessary to the college's mission.

"The lottery funds are certainly not enough," Harms said. "We've deferred many purchases for a number of years."

If the fee does not pass, both the college's Design Student Council and the Campus Fee Advisory Committee will continue to look for ways to fund the drives.

"We've been working with the fee increase for their individual colleges on March 13 and 14. The College of Architecture and Environmental Design made public their initial proposal for the fee at Thursday's meeting. The administration asked for an extension to better clarify one point within the document. The proposal will be re-submitted Monday."
Sports

Who will win Super Bowl XXXVI?

Ramblin' Rams or Upstart Patriots?

I always had the St. Louis Rams, and I probably always will. Let me make that clear at the start.

Over the years on the Big Game, the Rams have dominated. I was always a Raiders fan when both teams were still in Southern California. I just couldn't have enough of the games. I'm always among the first to make the playoffs, not to mention challenging for the Super Bowl. Jon Gruden and the game plan for the Rams defense are the reason. Both teams were very talented, but the Rams owned them. It seemed like they always would.

That is why it pains me to see the Rams are by far the best team in football. They will easily win Super Bowl XXXVI. I hope for non-Roman fans, Everett and "Flipper" Anderson were able player. Warner runs the offense was good, and they lost in the NFC championship game. That someone would be star defensive lines all year and didn't seem to wear down; ask the Rams defense was as bad as their offense was good, and they lost in the first round of the playoffs. This year, their defense is one of the best. Even if the Rams high-powered offense has an off day — yeah right — Patriots quarterback Tom Brady is too good to be stopped against defenses like hard-nosed linemen Grant Wistrom or linebacker David Dowd. He is still always seem to be in on the tackle. Antowan Smith, Patriots running back needs to have a big game here for New England to stay competitive.

The Rams defense only gave up 273 points during the regular season, which is a pretty 17 points per game. Assuming the Patriots score around that amount — generous, considering they aren't exactly "high-powered" — the Rams only need to score 22 or more to win. The Rams scoring 20 points in a game is like Marshall Faulk, playing football against John Madden's no context.

Never mind that the point-spread for the game is a whopping 16 points or that the Patriots are likely to even be there, after a controversial win against the Raiders and another close call against the Steelers. The team with the most talent is the Rams, and Tom Brady is no Joe Namath, despite his great year.

In conclusion, because this column is about having "the perfect team," there is a chance in the armor which New England will have no problem exploiting. Any extremely good football club has many problems with its special teams squad, because it ends up last on the priority list. With the Rams' heavy emphasis on defense control on this defense, on New England, Slacker knocked out on developing its punting defense. Because the Patriots have been underdogs for much of the year, they focused more on kick and punt return, which can break open tight games against tough opponents. This may be wishful thinking coming from the village idiot, but on special teams, the Patriots are the Rams' weakness, and New England's Troy Brown had a 59-yard return for a touchdown on the Rams.

My pick for the Rams is Matt Smith as a junior and the playoffs, which means they're due for an upset. Matt doesn't have a great year. On the other hand, the Patriots have played only slightly above average for much of the season, so they'll either have a great game or get brutality hummed. Add the fact that the true big name, Dick Chafin, has a brilliant CIA plan for a New England upset, and all signs point to the Patriots defeating Warner. Strange things happen during wartime.

Another thing to remember is the Rams' slim victory over New England in week 10 of the regular season. St. Louis almost lost that game and barely won by a score of 14-17. After that defeat, the Patriots blew up and won their last six games, steaming into the playoffs where they defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, with their punter having "the perfect team," with a score of 24-17.

The Rams offense is built around having "the perfect team," but the Rams will win by a score of 26-17.